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# MORROW MOUNTAIN STATE PARK AQUATIC INVENTORY

by Gabriela B. Mottesi and Mara E. Savacool

edited by John M. Alderman

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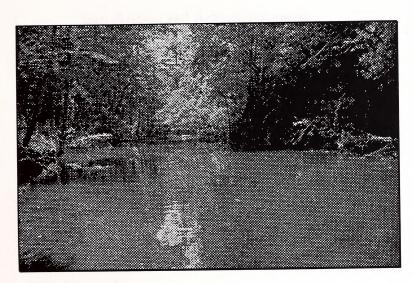
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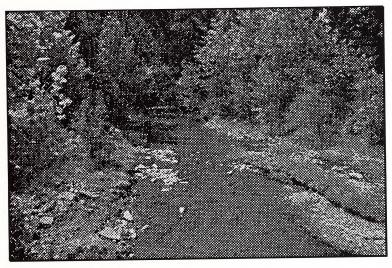




# MORROW MOUNTAIN STATE PARK AQUATIC INVENTORY



**Mountain Creek** 



Little Mountain Creek



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# **Morrow Mountain State Park Aquatic Inventory**

# Introduction

Morrow Mountain State Park is located in Stanly County and encompasses 4,693 acres. The park is located in the ancient Uwharrie Mountains. There are four major peaks within the park: Morrow, Fall, Hattaway, and Sugarloaf, with Morrow Mountain being the highest at an elevation of 936 feet.

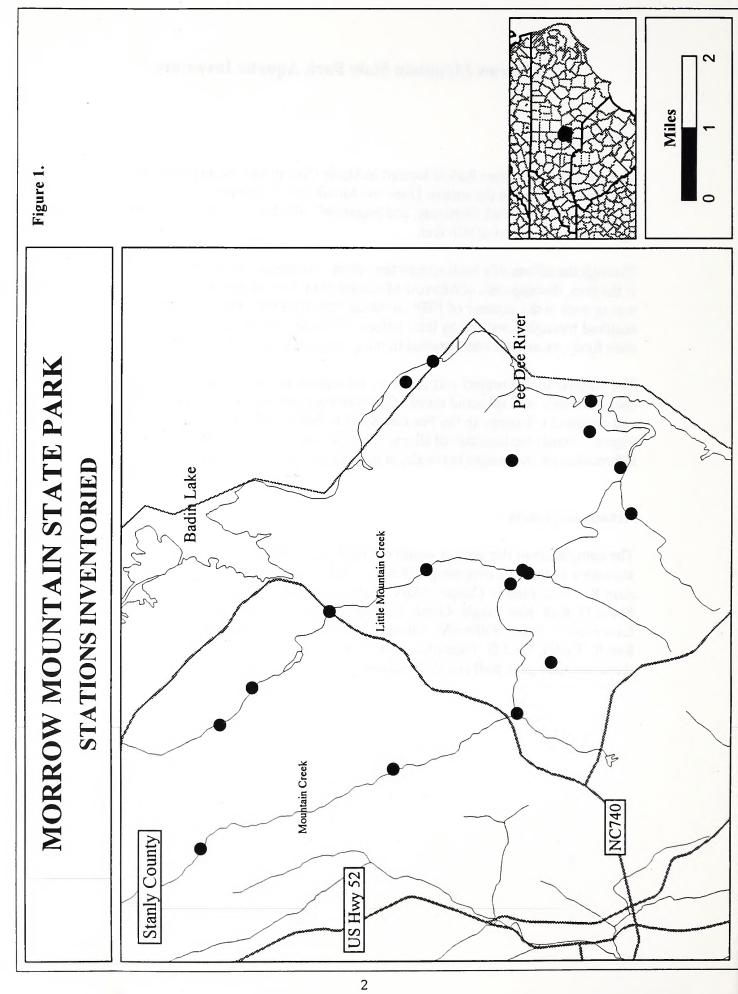
Through the efforts of a local committee, which was interested in establishing a state park in the area, development of Morrow Mountain State Park began in the 1930s. The park was opened in the summer of 1939, at which time more than 3,000 acres had been acquired through donations by local citizens. Additional facilities were added, and with state funds, more land was acquired to bring the park to the size it is today.

The purpose of this project was to survey for aquatic species, including crayfish, fish, snails, mussels, and sphaeriid clams. Our inventory included the Mountain Creek Subbasin and unnamed tributaries to the Pee Dee River within Morrow Mountain State Park. Figure 1 details the localities of all stations surveyed. The following sections provide information on the species in the above taxa documented at each site in the survey area.

# Acknowledgments

The completion of this project would not have been possible without the invaluable assistance of the following people: John M. Alderman, Alvin Braswell, Mike B. Carraway, Alan R. Clark, John E. Cooper, Mark A. Hartman, Tom Henson, Judith A. Johnson, Sheila D. Kirk, Ken Knight, Gerald L. Mackie, Andrew H. McDaniel, Jr., Chris McGrath, Lawrence M. Page, William M. Palmer, Louis P. Polletta, Danny Smith, Wayne Starnes, Ken R. Taylor, Fred G. Thompson, Randall C. Wilson, and Melissa R. Wood. We also thank the state park staff and the landowners who allowed us to work on their properties.

Gabriela B. Mottesi



# **Aquatic Snails**

Gabriela B. Mottesi, Nongame Biologist Nongame and Endangered Wildlife Program Division of Wildlife Management NC Wildlife Resources Commission

# Introduction

There are approximately 500 species of aquatic snails currently recognized in North America. These 500 species are divided into 78 genera and 15 families (Burch 1989). In North Carolina, there are approximately 52 species representing 8 families (Adams 1990).

Snails are grouped into one of two subclasses. Prosobranch snails are gill-breathing and have an operculum, which is a calcareous plate that closes the aperture when the snail withdraws into its shell. Pulmonate snails are lung-breathing and do not have an operculum to seal their aperture (Burch 1989).

These animals graze on algae and other microscopic organisms using radular teeth to grind food to an appropriate size for consumption. Snails are an essential part of aquatic ecosystems, as well as indicators of water quality. However, they are typically overlooked. The lack of information and knowledge of snails can be attributed, in part, to their minute size, perceived lack of activity, cryptic habits, and difficulty in identification.

#### Methods

Snails were surveyed in the Mountain Creek Subbasin and unnamed tributaries to the Pee Dee River within Morrow Mountain State Park (Fig. 1, Introduction Section). Most habitats can be described as riffle/run with slow to medium flow. Pools of different sizes with slow flow were also present. Substrate included combinations of silt, sand, clay, gravel, cobble, boulder, and bedrock. Some aquatic vegetation and organic debris were also present.

Specimens were collected using visual and tactile searches. Due to the cryptic habits of some snail species, it was necessary to sift and dredge the substrate. All available habitats were sampled. Snails were preserved and stored in 70% ethanol.

Snails and limpet snails were identified using Burch (1989) and Basch (1963). Expected distributions and the following characteristics were used to identify the specimens: presence/absence of an operculum, direction of coiling, shell size, shape, color and thickness, texture of the shell, placement of apex, shape and number of the whorls, and the shape of the apertural lip. With the acquisition of additional information, identifications may be subject to change.

# **Results and Discussion**

Snails were located at sixteen of the sites surveyed (Fig. 1). At least seven species representing six families and both subclasses were found within the Mountain Creek Subbasin and unnamed tributaries to the Pee Dee River within Morrow Mountain State Park (Table 1).

During the present survey, Elimia catenaria (Say, 1822) and Elimia proxima (Say, 1825) were found attached to rocks in the fast current. Campeloma decisum (Say, 1816), Physella sp., and Helisoma anceps (Menke, 1830) were collected in the backwater areas with slow flow in the mud/silt substrate. Helisoma anceps was also found in the aquatic vegetation. Campeloma decisum is considered a species complex (Adams, pers. comm. 1995). Therefore, when more information is acquired, this species complex may be separated into a few recognizable species.

Amnicola sp. was found on the aquatic vegetation. The limpet snail, Laevapex fuscus (C.B. Adams, 1841), was found on the underside of rocks and on woody debris in the slower current.

The Mountain Creek Subbasin and unnamed tributaries to the Pee Dee River within Morrow Mountain State Park support a good abundance and diversity of snails. As is shown in Table 2, most species were found in good numbers at each site.

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Table 1. Snails found in the waterways of Morrow Mountain State Park

# Prosobranchia

Hydrobiidae

Amnicola sp.

Pleuroceridae

Elimia catenaria (Say, 1822)

Elimia proxima (Say, 1825)

Viviparidae

Campeloma decisum (Say, 1816)

Gravel elimia

Sprite elimia

Pointed campeloma

# Pulmonata

Physidae

Physella sp.

Planorbidae

Helisoma anceps (Menke, 1830)

Two-ridge rams-horn

Ancylidae

Laevapex fuscus (C.B. Adams, 1841)

Dusky ancylid

# Station No. 960809.2 960822.1 950703.2 960807.2 960809.1 960821.3 950703.3 960808.4 960808.2 960807.1 960820.1 960821.4 960820.2 960808.5 950703.5 960821.1 Legend Miles Dot No. Figure 1. 12 13 14 Pee Dee River MORROW MOUNTAIN STATE PARK AQUATIC SNAIL SPECIES INVENTORY Badin Lake Little Mountain Creek Mountain Creek NC740 Stanly County US Hwy 52 6

Table 2. Snails found in Morrow Mountain State Park and the Mountain Creek Subbasin

Identified By	G.B. Mottesi G.B. Mottesi G.B. Mottesi G.B. Mottesi	G.B. Mottesi G.B. Mottesi G.B. Mottesi G.B. Mottesi	G.B. Mottesi G.B. Mottesi G.B. Mottesi G.B. Mottesi G.B. Mottesi	G.B. Mottesi G.B. Mottesi G.B. Mottesi G.B. Mottesi	G.B. Mottesi G.B. Mottesi G.B. Mottesi G.B. Mottesi G.B. Mottesi	G.B. Mottesi G.B. Mottesi G.B. Mottesi G.B. Mottesi G.B. Mottesi G.B. Mottesi G.B. Mottesi	G.B. Mottesi G.B. Mottesi G.B. Mottesi G.B. Mottesi G.B. Mottesi G.B. Mottesi G.B. Mottesi G.B. Mottesi
Number	22 1 2 2 3 2 3 2 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	organic mastrice	2 2 1 13	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	17 12 10 10 11		12 1 1 3 3 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5
<u>Date</u> N	3 July 1995 3 July 1995 3 July 1995 3 July 1995	3 July 1995 3 July 1995 3 July 1995 7 August 1996	7 August 1996 7 August 1996 7 August 1996 7 August 1996 8 August 1996	8 August 1996 8 August 1996 8 August 1996 8 August 1996	8 August 1996 8 August 1996 8 August 1996 8 August 1996 9 August 1996	9 August 1996 9 August 1996 9 August 1996 20 August 1996 20 August 1996 20 August 1996	21 August 1996 21 August 1996 21 August 1996 21 August 1996 21 August 1996 21 August 1996 22 August 1996
County	Stanly Co., NC Stanly Co., NC Stanly Co., NC Stanly Co., NC	Stanly Co., NC Stanly Co., NC Stanly Co., NC Stanly Co., NC	Stanly Co., NC Stanly Co., NC Stanly Co., NC Stanly Co., NC Stanly Co., NC	Stanly Co., NC Stanly Co., NC Stanly Co., NC Stanly Co., NC	Stanly Co., NC Stanly Co., NC Stanly Co., NC Stanly Co., NC Stanly Co., NC	Stanly Co., NC	Stanly Co., NC
Common	SR 1720 SR 1720 SR 1720 SR 1720	Dastr. of confl. with L. Mtn. Cr. Dastr. of confl. with L. Mtn. Cr. Dastr. of confl. with L. Mtn. Cr. SR 1549	SR 1549 SR 1549 SR 1720 SR 1720 Boat Ramp, MMSP	Boat Ramp, MMSP Boat Ramp, MMSP Boat Ramp, MMSP Family Camp, MMSP	SR 1720 SR 1720 SR 1720 SR 1720 SR 1730	SR 1522 SR 1522 SR 1522 NC 740 NC 740 SR 1542 SR 1542	Bridle Trail, MMSP Bridle Trail, MMSP Bridle Trail, MMSP Bridle Trail, MMSP SR 1730 SR 1730 SR 1730 SR 1745
	Little Mountain Creek Little Mountain Creek Mountain Creek	Mountain Creek Mountain Creek Mountain Creek Little Mountain Creek	Little Mountain Creek	Lake Tillery backwaters Lake Tillery backwaters Lake Tillery backwaters unnamed trib. to Pee Dee R.	Mountain Creek Mountain Creek Mountain Creek Mountain Creek	Mountain Creek Mountain Creek Mountain Creek Little Mountain Creek Mountain Creek Mountain Creek	unnamed trib. to Pee Dee R. unnamed trib. to Mountain Cr. unnamed trib. to Mountain Cr. Little Mountain Creek
Scientific Name	Laevapex fuscus Physella sp. Laevapex fuscus Flimia proxima	Elimia proxima Elimia proxima Amnicola sp. Laevapex fuscus Halisomo oncens	neusoma anceps Laevapex fuscus Physella sp. Laevapex fuscus Physella sp.	Amnicola sp. Helisoma anceps Campeloma decisum	Latinia proxima Laevapex fuscus Physella sp. Elimia proxima Elimia catenaria	Laevapex Juscus Elimia proxima Helisoma anceps Physella sp. Physella sp. Laevapex fuscus Laevapex fuscus	Laevapex fuscus Helisoma anceps Physella sp. Amnicola sp. Helisoma anceps Physella sp. Elimia proxima
Station No.	950703.2 950703.2 950703.3	950703.5 950703.5 950703.5 950703.5	960807.1 960807.1 960807.2 960807.2	960808.2 960808.2 960808.2 960808.2	960808.5 960808.5 960808.5 960808.5	960809.1 960809.2 960809.2 960800.1 960820.1 960820.2	960821.1 960821.1 960821.1 960821.1 960821.3 960821.3

# Freshwater Mussels and Sphaeriid Clams

Gabriela B. Mottesi, Nongame Biologist Nongame and Endangered Wildlife Program Division of Wildlife Management NC Wildlife Resources Commission

### Introduction

Freshwater mussels are in the Class Bivalvia. As the name implies, the mussel is separated into right and left shell-secreting centers. The shell itself is a single entity which is divided into right and left portions. Mussels are characterized by having greatly enlarged gills with ciliated filaments for filter feeding. Freshwater mussels are integral parts of many aquatic ecosystems. They provide nutrients for insects and other invertebrates and are a food source for other organisms. Because they are filter feeders, they are excellent indicators of water quality.

There are approximately 300 species and subspecies of freshwater mussels in the United States. The greatest diversity of these mussels occurs in the Southeast. Roughly 70 species can be found in North Carolina. Unfortunately, approximately half are state listed as Endangered, Threatened, or species of Special Concern (Adams 1990). It appears that the mussel fauna of the United States is in danger of extinction (reference Williams, et al. here). Therefore, it is necessary that we determine the status and distribution of these organisms so that proper management techniques can be applied.

Sphaeriid clams, like freshwater mussels, are in the Class Bivalvia and are filter feeders. The members of this family are considered the pea, pill, nut, or fingernail clams. Because of their well-developed mechanism of passive dispersal and adaptability, sphaeriid clams can be found in almost any body of freshwater. Therefore, their distributions are considered truly cosmopolitan (Branson 1988). In spite of their cosmopolitan distribution, not much is known about sphaeriid clams. They are represented in North America by 38 species of the family Sphaeriidae. In North Carolina, there are approximately 13 species of sphaeriid clams (Adams 1990).

One exotic species, the Asian clam (*Corbicula fluminea* (Müller 1774)), of the family Corbiculidae (Burch 1975) was introduced into this country in 1937 and was found in most of the area surveyed.

#### Methods

Freshwater mussels and sphaeriid clams were surveyed in the Mountain Creek Subbasin and unnamed tributaries to the Pee Dee River within Morrow Mountain State Park (Fig. 1, Introduction Section). Most habitats can be described as riffle/run with slow to medium flow. Pools of different sizes with slow flow were also present. Substrate included

combinations of silt, sand, clay, gravel, cobble, boulder, and bedrock. Some aquatic vegetation and organic debris were also present.

Freshwater mussels were collected at bridge crossings. Various techniques were used including snorkeling, sifting of the substrate, visual and tactile searches, and visual searches of the shores for shells. Live mussels were identified, measured, and returned unharmed to the appropriate habitat. Fresh shells were identified, measured, and kept for curation.

Sphaeriid clams were also collected at bridge crossings. Collecting techniques included seining, dip netting, sifting of the substrate, and visual and tactile searches. Specimens were preserved and stored in 70% ethanol. Sphaeriid clams were identified using Branson (1988) and Burch (1975). With the acquisition of additional information, identifications made of both freshwater mussels and sphaeriid clams may be subject to change.

# **Results and Discussion**

Figure 1 details the localities of the nine stations where freshwater mussels were found. At least six species of mussels, all in the family Unionidae, were found in the Pee Dee River Basin within Morrow Mountain State Park.

Figure 2 details the locality of the station where sphaeriid clams were found. One species, within the family Sphaeriidae, was found in the Mountain Creek Subbasin.

The specimens falling into either the *Elliptio complanata* or *Elliptio icterina* complexes were listed under the *Elliptio* spp. category. Therefore, these complexes possibly contain several species. The ecophenotypes of these *Elliptio* complexes are found at numerous sites throughout eastern North Carolina (Alderman, pers. comm., 1997). Additional genetic information is necessary to determine the number of species within these complexes.

Fair diversity and abundance of mussels occur within the waterways associated with Morrow Mountain State Park (Table 2). The habitat diversity of the subbasin allows for co-existence of freshwater mussels with varying habitat requirements.

One sphaeriid clam species, *Musculium securis* (Prime, 1852), was found at one site within the survey area (Table 3).

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Table 1. Mussels found in the waterways of Morrow Mountain State Park

# Unionidae

Elliptio spp.

Lampsilis radiata (Gmelin, 1791) Pyganodon cataracta (Say, 1817)

Utterbackia imbecilis Say, 1829

Villosa delumbis (Conrad, 1834)

Villosa vaughaniana (I. Lea, 1838)

Eastern lampmussel

Eastern floater

Paper pondshell

Eastern creekshell

Carolina creekshell

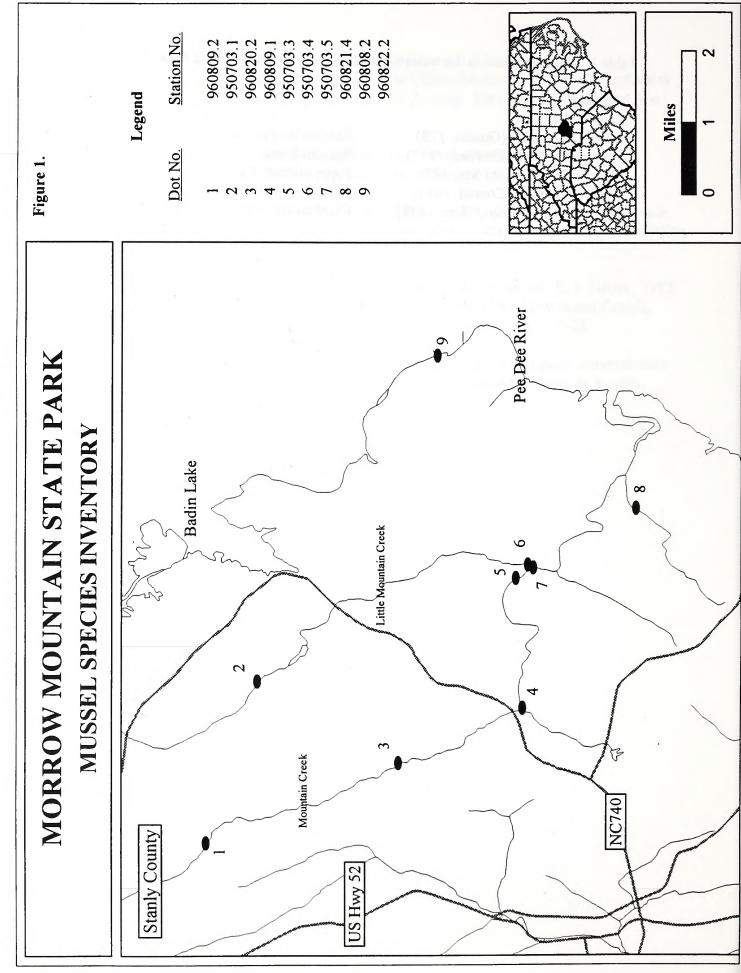


Table 2. Mussels found in Morrow Mountain State Park and the Mountain Creek Subbasin

Number (shell)	0 0 0 1 4 4 2 2 Present 0 0 1 1
Number (live)	16 0 1 1 1 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
<u>Date</u>	3 July 1995 3 July 1995 3 July 1995 3 July 1995 8 August 1996 8 August 1996 9 August 1996 20 August 1996 21 August 1996 22 August 1996
County	Stanly Co., NC
Common Locality	SR 1549 SR 1720 Upstr. of confl. with Mountain Cr. Dnstr. of confl. with Little Mtn. Cr. Boat Ramp, MMSP Boat Ramp, MMSP SR 1730 SR 1522 SR 1522 SR 1542
Waterway	Little Mountain Creek Mountain Creek Little Mountain Creek Mountain Creek Lake Tillery backwaters Lake Tillery backwaters Lake Tillery backwaters Mountain Creek Mountain Creek unnamed trib. to Mountain Cr. Lake Tillery Lake Tillery
Scientific Name	Villosa vaughaniana Elliptio spp. Villosa vaughaniana Villosa vaughaniana Vilterbackia imbecilis Pyganodon cataracta Lampsilis radiata Elliptio spp. Elliptio spp. Villosa vaughaniana Lampsilis radiata Vitterbackia imbecilis Villosa delumbis
Station No.	950703.1 950703.3 950703.4 950703.5 960808.2 960809.1 960820.2 960820.2 960822.2

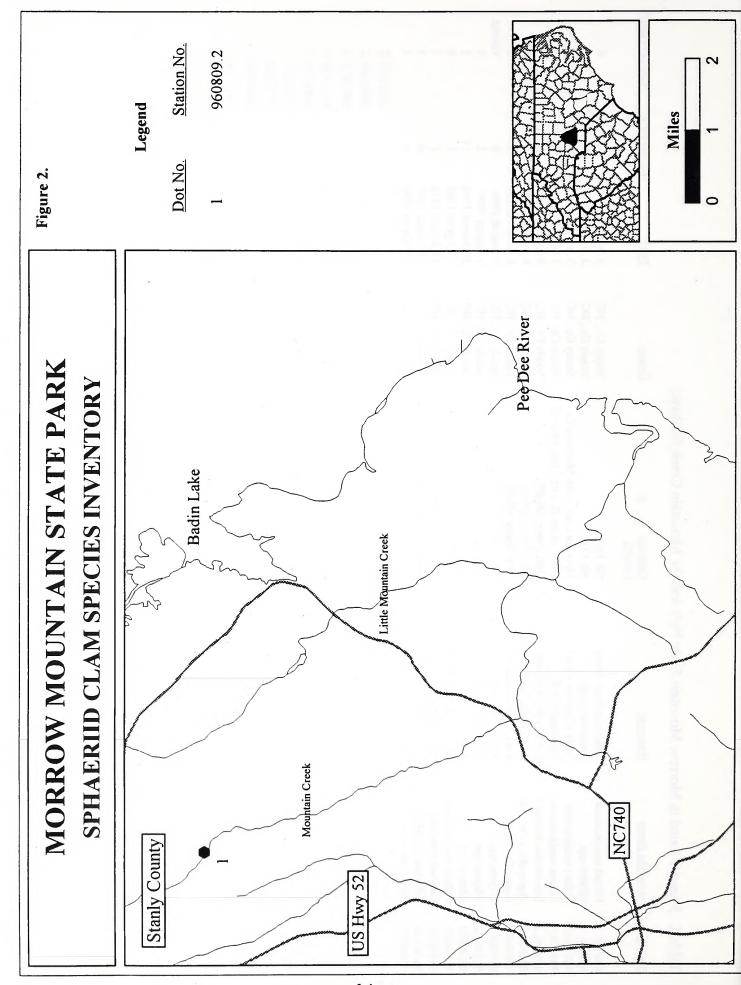


Table 3. Sphaeriid clams found in Morrow Mountain State Park and the Mountain Creek Subbasin

Identified By	G.B. Mottesi
Number	
Date	9 August 1996
County	Stanly Co., NC
Common	SR 1522
Waterway	Mountain Creek
Scientific Name	Musculium securis
Station No.	960809.2

# Crayfish

Mara E. Savacool, Nongame Biologist Nongame and Endangered Wildlife Program Division of Wildlife Management NC Wildlife Resources Commission

# Introduction

There are currently 338 recognized species of crayfish in the United States and Canada, the greatest diversity of which reside in the Southeast (Taylor et al. 1996). In North Carolina, there are 30 native and 2 introduced species of crayfish (Cooper, pers. comm., 1997). Of these 32 species, nine are listed as significantly rare by the North Carolina Natural Heritage Program (LeGrand and Hall 1995).

Crayfish play a significant role in aquatic ecosystems by representing a large percentage of the biomass in lentic and lotic waters. As prey, they are an important food resource for centrarchids (Rabeni 1992) in addition to birds and mammals (Crocker and Barr 1968). As consumers, they forage for a wide range of nourishment including detritus, aquatic vegetation, arthropods, mollusks, crustaceans, fish, and amphibians (Hobbs III 1993).

Crayfish forage mostly at night and usually seek shelter from predators during daylight hours under cobble and woody debris, in root mats, burrows, or depressions. They are gill breathing organisms and require an aquatic habitat to absorb oxygen from the water. In accordance with habitat preferences, crayfish are classified as either non-burrowers or burrowers. Non-burrowers spend their entire life in the stream bed while burrowers excavate tunnels in roadside ditches, wet pastures, and flood plains (Taylor et al. 1996). Different species of burrowers spend different amounts of their life cycle in subterranean domains.

The average life span of a crayfish is between two and three years (Taylor et al. 1996). During this time, they grow through a series of molts of their exoskeleton. They have five pairs of abdominal appendages called pleopods. The first pleopod pair of the male is modified as a sexual organ. In the family Cambaridae (which includes all North Carolina species), there are two designations for adult male crayfish: Form I and Form II. Throughout their lives, adult males cycle between these forms. Morphologically both forms are similar except in the texture and shape of the first pleopod. Form I males are able to sexually reproduce while Form II males are not. Unlike adult males, adult females do not cycle between morphological forms and once they reach adulthood, they can sexually reproduce.

Although crayfish are common in many freshwater ecosystems, there are significant gaps in our understanding of the distribution, biology and taxonomy of many species. A recent report on the "Conservation Status of Crayfishes of the United States and Canada"

estimated that in the United States and Canada 50% of crayfish species are "in need of conservation recognition" (Taylor et. al. 1996). In North Carolina, researchers are currently investigating the taxonomy and distribution of approximately ten species which are undescribed or belong to species complexes (Cooper, pers. comm., 1997).

This survey focused on North Carolina state park waterways and their surrounding tributaries. Since the emphasis of the project was on the surface water inhabitants, most of the crayfish collected were non-burrowers. Due to time and weather restrictions, the exact distribution of each species within the state park and its associated waterways was not determined. An estimation was made for the relative abundance of each species collected. In addition, specific habitat preferences for each species were noted.

# Methods

Crayfish were surveyed in the Mountain Creek Subbasin and unnamed tributaries to the Pee Dee River within Morrow Mountain State Park (Fig. 1). Species were collected with a dipnet and a 6' X 10' mesh net seine. Specimens were preserved and stored in 70% ethanol.

A variety of resources were consulted for identification. "An Illustrated Checklist of the American Crayfishes" (Hobbs 1989) was particularly helpful as well as an unpublished key of North Carolina crayfish (Hobbs 1991). Dr. John Cooper, North Carolina State Museum of Natural Sciences, provided further information used for identification. With additional information, the present identifications may be subject to change.

The key feature used to differentiate crayfish species from one another is the morphology and structure of the first pleopod pair of the Form I male. Form II males, juvenile males, and females can be recognized by their carapace, chelae, rostrum shape, and body coloration.

The carapace is the protective exoskeleton plate which encompasses the anterior half of the crayfish body. Its distinguishing features include the depth/width ratio and the placement of spinose ornamentation. The chelae are enlarged claws on the first pair of legs. Their important characteristics are the shape, which can be long and narrow or round and full, and setae, which are present only in some species. The rostrum refers to the anterior most portion of the carapace and it can be spinose or smooth. In terms of coloration, the exoskeleton can be plain, marbled, or striped with shades of blue, brown, tan, olive, and red.

Specimens were recorded as Form I male (MI), Form II male (MII), juvenile male (jM), adult female (F), and juvenile female (jF). Adult versus juvenile specimens were distinguished based on size. Carapace length was measured from the tip of the rostrum to the posterior carapace edge (Page 1985).

# Results

Collections were made from 22 sites on 7 days between 3 July 1995 and 22 August 1996. Crayfish were collected or observed at 16 sites (Table 1). Three species were collected during the survey: Cambarus (Depressicambarus) reduncus (Hobbs, 1956), Cambarus (Puncticambarus) "acuminatus" (Faxon, 1884), and Procambarus (Ortmannicus) acutus acutus (Girard, 1852).

Cambarus (D.) reduncus was collected from the headwaters of Mountain Creek and from a ditch in Morrow Mountain State Park. The Form I male was found dead along a stream bank and the juveniles were collected from shallow pool habitat with leaf litter and cobble substrate. A total of 4 specimens were collected or observed (1 MI, 3 jM). Carapace length ranged from 17.05 to 37.15 mm; mean length was 24.56 (±8.72) mm. The Form I male was collected on 3 July 1995.

Cambarus (P.) "acuminatus" was commonly associated with cobble substrate in riffle/run habitat. Juveniles were abundant in the small tributaries. Seventy-nine specimens were collected or observed (3 MI, 7 MII, 33 jM, 5 F, 31 jF). Carapace length ranged from 5.80 to 33.10 mm; mean length was 18.70 (±5.44) mm. Form I males were found on 3 July 1995.

Procambarus (O.) a. acutus was found in pool habitat and among aquatic vegetation. A total of 10 specimens were collected or observed (1 MI, 3 jM, 1 F, 5 jF). Carapace length ranged from 9.60 to 38.65 mm; mean length was 18.20 (±10.68) mm. The Form I male was collected on 21 August 1996.

### Discussion

There is a good abundance of crayfish in the Mountain Creek Subbasin and in the unnamed tributaries to the Pee Dee River in Morrow Mountain State Park. Most sites provided habitat for at least one species of crayfish.

Cambarus (P.) "acuminatus" was abundant throughout the sampled area, and juveniles were especially common in the smaller tributaries. Specimens were collected in all stages of the crayfish life cycle, which supports literature suggesting they are primarily a non-burrowing species and thus spend most of their life in the surface water habitats (Hobbs 1989). The C. (P.) "acuminatus" specimens collected from this area are part of a larger species complex, Cambarus (Puncticambarus) sp. C. This complex occurs across the Coastal Plain, Piedmont, and Mountain physiographic regions of North Carolina and currently awaits further clarification (Cooper and Braswell 1995).

Procambarus (O.) a. acutus was common throughout the sampled area as well. Juveniles, which represented most of the collected specimens, were found among the aquatic vegetation, while larger specimens occurred in pool habitats. This is consistent with

Hobbs (1989) designation of the habitat type of P. (O.) a. acutus as "sluggish to moderately flowing streams and most lentic situations".

Cambarus (D.) reduncus was not common in the sampled waterways. This species is primarily a burrower (Hobbs 1989) which could explain the low numbers found and the prevalence of juvenile specimens.

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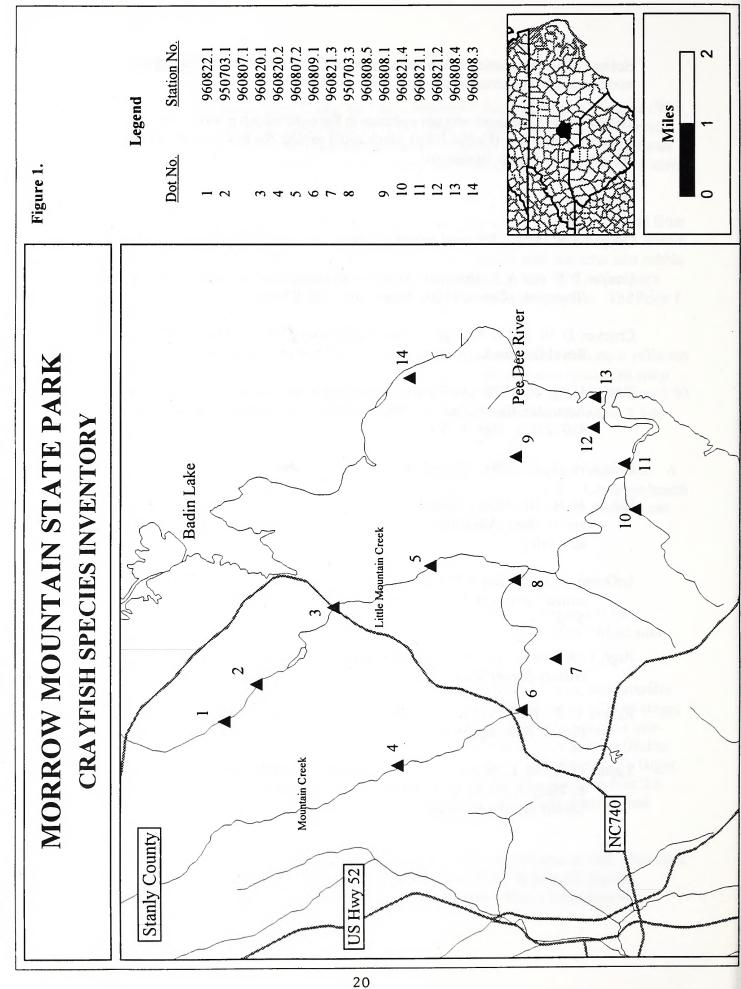


Table 1. Crayfish found in Morrow Mountain State Park and the Mountain Creek Subbasin

Identified By	M.E. Savacool	
Number/Sex	2M 1F 1MI, 1jM 1MI, 2MI, 2jM, 1jF 1F 3jM, 1F 2jM 1MII, 1jM 3jM, 1F, 5jF 2MII, 1jF 1jM, 1F, 1jF 1jM, 1F, 1jF 1jM, 2jF 1jM, 2jF 1jM, 2jF 1jM, 2jF 1jM, 2jF 1jM, 2jF 1jM, 2jF 2MII, 4jM, 3jF 1jM, 2jF 2MII, 4jM, 3jF 1jM, 1jF 2MI, 4jF 1jM, 1jF 1jM, 1jF 2jM, 3jF 2jM, 3jF 2jM, 3jF 2jM, 3jF 2jM, 3jF	-f- (f. (
Date	3 July 1995 3 July 1995 3 July 1995 3 July 1995 7 August 1996 7 August 1996 8 August 1996 8 August 1996 8 August 1996 8 August 1996 20 August 1996 21 August 1996 22 August 1996 22 August 1996 23 August 1996 24 August 1996 25 August 1996 25 August 1996 26 August 1996 27 August 1996 28 August 1996 28 August 1996 28 August 1996 29 August 1996 20 August 1996	
County	Stanly Co., NC	Junu 200., 110
<u>Common</u> <u>Locality</u>	SR 1549 SR 1549 SR 1720 SR 1720 SR 1720 SR 1720 MMSP MMSP Group Camp, MMSP Family Camp, MMSP SR 1720 SR 1730 SR 1730 NC 740 SR 1542 Bridle Trail, MMSP Bridle Trail, MMSP SR 1730 SR 1730 SR 1730	CECI NO
Waterway	Little Mountain Creek Little Mountain Creek Mountain Creek Mountain Creek Little Mountain Creek Little Mountain Creek roadside ditch unnamed trib. to Pee Dee R. Mountain Creek Mountain Creek Mountain Creek Mountain Creek Little Mountain Creek unnamed trib. to Pee Dee R. unnamed trib. to Mountain Cr.	Little Mountain Creek
Scientific Name	Cambarus (P.) sp. C Procambarus (O.) acutus acutus Cambarus (D.) reduncus Cambarus (P.) sp. C	Cambarus (P.) sp. C
Station No.		960822.1

#### Freshwater Fishes

Gabriela B. Mottesi, Nongame Biologist Nongame and Endangered Wildlife Program Division of Wildlife Management NC Wildlife Resources Commission

#### Introduction

Approximately 790 fish species are believed to occur in the freshwaters of the United States and Canada (Page & Burr 1991). More than 225 species can be found in North Carolina (Menhinick 1991). This unusually rich and variable fish fauna is due to a great diversity of habitats found within the state and to different zoogeographic distribution patterns of various species. Many game species, several bait and forage species, and at least one aquarium species have become established in North Carolina waters (Menhinick 1991).

Unfortunately, almost one quarter of the fish occurring in North Carolina are state listed as Endangered, Threatened, or Special Concern species. This is of concern since fish are important components of aquatic ecosystems; they are indicators of water quality; and many species are a source of recreation for the state's citizens. Therefore, it is important that we determine their status/distributions and apply proper conservation techniques where necessary.

# Methods

Fish were surveyed in the Mountain Creek Subbasin and unnamed tributaries to the Pee Dee River within Morrow Mountain State Park (Fig. 1, Introduction Section). Most habitats can be described as riffle/run with slow to medium flow. Pools of different sizes with slow flow were also present. Substrate included combinations of silt, sand, clay, gravel, cobble, boulder, and bedrock. Some aquatic vegetation and organic debris were also present.

Fish were collected at bridge crossings. Collecting techniques included the use of a 6' x 10' minnow seine, dip nets, and minnow traps. Different techniques of seining, such as kicking, and setting and dragging, were utilized according to the habitat. Specimens were fixed in 10% formalin and preserved in 70% ethanol. Specimens not collected were returned unharmed.

The following sources were used as identification tools: Jenkins (1995), Menhinick (1991), Page (1983), and Page and Burr (1991). Some identifications were verified using specimens from the collection of the NC State Museum of Natural Sciences. With the acquisition of more information, identifications may be subject to change.

# **Results and Discussion**

Figure 1 details the localities of the sixteen stations where fish were found. Twenty-one species of fish representing eight families were found within the waterways associated with Morrow Mountain State Park (Table 1).

The habitat diversity within the Mountain Creek Subbasin and the unnamed tributaries to the Pee Dee River within Morrow Mountain State Park allow for the co-existence of species with different habitat requirements. Species which prefer deeper pool areas, such as: Lepomis auritus (Linnaeus, 1758), Lepomis macrochirus Rafinesque, 1819, and Micropterus salmoides (Lacepède, 1802) were found. Gambusia holbrooki Girard, 1859, which is a surface dweller, was detected.

Open water species including: Notropis altipinnis (Cope, 1870), Cyprinella analostana Girard, 1859, and Moxostoma anisurum (Rafinesque, 1820) were also found. These waterways also provided significant leaf litter and woody debris for species such as Ameiurus natalis (Lesueur, 1819). Species which prefer shallow pool and/or run habitat such as Etheostoma olmstedi Storer, 1842 were also detected. These are just a few examples of the species and habitat diversity found within the waterways associated with Morrow Mountain State Park.

Fish species diversity and abundance are good within the waterways associated with Morrow Mountain State Park (Table 2).

#### Resources

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Table 1. Fish found in the waterways of Morrow Mountain State Park

Clupeidae	
Dorosoma cepedianum (Lesueur, 1818)	Gizzard shad
Esocidae	
Esox niger Lesueur, 1818	Chain pickerel
Cyprinidae	
Clinostomus funduloides Girard, 1856	Rosyside dace
Cyprinella analostana Girard, 1859	Satinfin shiner
Nocomis leptocephalus (Girard, 1856)	Bluehead chub
Notemigonus crysoleucas (Mitchill, 1814)	Golden shiner
Notropis altipinnis (Cope, 1870)	Highfin shiner
Notropis procne (Cope, 1865)	Swallowtail shiner
Semotilus atromaculatus (Mitchill, 1818)	Creek chub
Catostomidae	
Erimyzon oblongus (Mitchill, 1814)	Creek chubsucker
Moxostoma anisurum (Rafinesque, 1820)	Silver redhorse
Ictaluridae	
Ameiurus natalis (Lesueur, 1819)	Yellow bullhead
Poeciliidae	
Gambusia holbrooki Girard, 1859	Eastern mosquitofish
Centrarchidae	
Lepomis auritus (Linnaeus, 1758)	Redbreast sunfish
Lepomis gibbosus (Linnaeus, 1758)	Pumpkinseed sunfish
Lepomis gulosus (Cuvier, 1829)	Warmouth
Lepomis macrochirus Rafinesque, 1819	Bluegill sunfish
Lepomis microlophus (Günther, 1859)	Redear sunfish
Lepomis sp.	
Micropterus salmoides (Lacepède, 1802)	Largemouth bass
Percidae	
Etheostoma olmstedi Storer, 1842	Tessellated darter

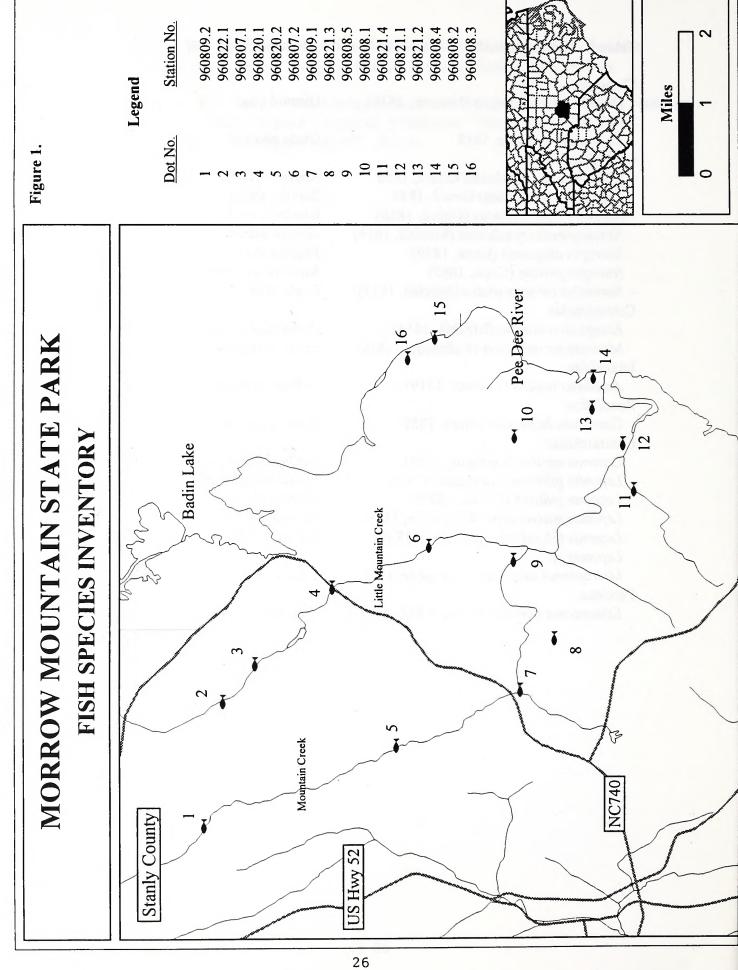


Table 2. Fish found in Morrow Mountain State Park and the Mountain Creek Subbasin

Station No.	Scientific Name	Waterway	Common	County	Date	Number	Identified By
			Locality				
1 208030	Clinostomus funduloides	Little Mountain Creek	SR 1549	Stanly Co., NC	7 August 1996	2	G.B. Mottesi
960807.1	Gambusia holbrooki	Little Mountain Creek	SR 1549	Stanly Co., NC	7 August 1996	-	G.B. Mottesi
960807.1	Semotilus atromaculatus	Little Mountain Creek	SR 1549	Stanly Co., NC	7 August 1996	1	G.B. Mottesi
960807.2	I enomis auritus	Little Mountain Creek	SR 1720	Stanly Co., NC	7 August 1996	3	G.B. Mottesi
960807.2	I spomis oibhosus	Little Mountain Creek	SR 1720	Stanly Co., NC	7 August 1996	2	G.B. Mottesi
960807.2	I enomis macrochirus	Little Mountain Creek	SR 1720	Stanly Co., NC	7 August 1996	3	G.B. Mottesi
960807 2	Nocomis lentocephalus	Little Mountain Creek	SR 1720	Stanly Co., NC	7 August 1996	13	G.B. Mottesi
960808 1	Semotilus atromaculatus	roadside ditch	MMSP	Stanly Co., NC	8 August 1996	5	G.B. Mottesi
960808.1	Clinostomus funduloides	roadside ditch	MMSP	Stanly Co., NC	8 August 1996	. 2	G.B. Mottesi
960808 2	Cynrinella analostana	Lake Tillery backwaters	Boat Ramp, MMSP	Stanly Co., NC	8 August 1996	6	G.B. Mottesi
960808 2	Etheostoma olmstedi	Lake Tillery backwaters	Boat Ramp, MMSP	Stanly Co., NC	8 August 1996	3	G.B. Mottesi
2:808097	Gambusia holbrooki	Lake Tillery backwaters	Boat Ramp, MMSP	Stanly Co., NC	8 August 1996	observed	M.E. Savacool
960808.2	Lenomis auritus	Lake Tillery backwaters	Boat Ramp, MMSP	Stanly Co., NC	8 August 1996	_	G.B. Mottesi
2.808090	Lenomis macrochirus	Lake Tillery backwaters	Boat Ramp, MIMSP	Stanly Co., NC	8 August 1996	2	G.B. Mottesi
2.80808.2	Micronterus salmoides	Lake Tillery backwaters	Boat Ramp, MMSP	Stanly Co., NC	8 August 1996	2	G.B. Mottesi
	Notronis proche	Lake Tillery backwaters	Boat Ramp, MMSP	Stanly Co., NC	8 August 1996	12	G.B. Mottesi
960808 3	Nocomis lentocephalus	unnamed trib. to Pee Dee R.	Group Camp, MMSP	Stanly Co., NC	8 August 1996	_	G.B. Mottesi
960808 3	Semotilus atromaculatus	unnamed trib. to Pee Dee R.	Group Camp, MMSP	Stanly Co., NC	8 August 1996	4	G.B. Mottesi
960808.3	Clinostomus funduloides	unnamed trib. to Pee Dee R.	Group Camp, MMSP	Stanly Co., NC	8 August 1996	6	G.B. Mottesi
960808.4	Clinostomus funduloides	unnamed trib. to Pee Dee R.	Family Camp, MMSP	Stanly Co., NC	8 August 1996	7	G.B. Mottesi
960808.4	Semotilus atromaculatus	unnamed trib. to Pee Dee R.	Family Camp, MMSP	Stanly Co., NC	8 August 1996	2	G.B. Mottesi
960808.5	Clinostomus funduloides	Mountain Creek	SR 1720	Stanly Co., NC	8 August 1996	6	G.B. Mottesi
960808 5	Etheostoma olmstedi	Mountain Creek	SR 1720	Stanly Co., NC	8 August 1996	3	G.B. Mottesi
960808.5	Lepomis auritus	Mountain Creek	SR 1720	Stanly Co., NC	8 August 1996	2	G.B. Mottesi
960808.5	Lepomis macrochirus	Mountain Creek	SR 1720	Stanly Co., NC	8 August 1996	3	G.B. Mottesi
960808.5	Micropterus salmoides	Mountain Creek	SR 1720	Stanly Co., NC	8 August 1996	_	G.B. Mottesi
960808.5	Nocomis leptocephalus	Mountain Creek	SR 1720	Stanly Co., NC	8 August 1996	10	G.B. Mottesi
960809.1	Nocomis leptocephalus	Mountain Creek	SR 1730	Stanly Co., NC	9 August 1996	91	G.B. Mottesi
960809.1	Semotilus atromaculatus	Mountain Creek	SR 1730	Stanly Co., NC	9 August 1996	_	G.B. Mottesi
960809.1	Notropis altipinnis	Mountain Creek	SR 1730	Stanly Co., NC	9 August 1996	_	G.B. Mottesi
960809.1	Clinostomus funduloides	Mountain Creek	SR 1730	Stanly Co., NC	9 August 1996	6	G.B. Mottesi
960809.1	Etheostoma olmstedi	Mountain Creek	SR 1730	Stanly Co., NC	9 August 1996	11	G.B. Mottesi
960809.1	Erimyzon oblongus	Mountain Creek	SR 1730	Stanly Co., NC	9 August 1996	_	G.B. Mottesi
9608092	Lenomis microlophus	Mountain Creek	SR 1522	Stanly Co., NC	9 August 1996	_	G.B. Mottesi
960820 1	Notemigonus crysoleucas	Little Mountain Creek	NC 740	Stanly Co., NC	20 August 1996	2	G.B. Mottesi
960820.1	Ameiurus natalis	Little Mountain Creek	NC 740	Stanly Co., NC	20 August 1996	en .	G.B. Mottesi

Table 2. Fish found in Morrow Mountain State Park and the Mountain Creek Subbasin (cont.)

		Locality				
	Little Mountain Creek	NC 740	Stanly Co., NC	20 August 1996	_	G.B. Mottesi
Notropis chiliticus	Little Mountain Creek	NC 740	Stanly Co., NC	20 August 1996	5	G.B. Mottesi
Lepomis auritus	Little Mountain Creek	NC 740	Stanly Co., NC	20 August 1996	1	G.B. Mottesi
Lepomis gibbosus	Little Mountain Creek	NC 740	Stanly Co., NC	20 August 1996	1	G.B. Mottesi
Lepomis gulosus	Little Mountain Creek	NC 740	Stanly Co., NC	20 August 1996	2	G.B. Mottesi
Lepomis macrochirus	Little Mountain Creek	NC 740	Stanly Co., NC	20 August 1996	3	G.B. Mottesi
Vocomis leptocephalus	Little Mountain Creek	NC 740	Stanly Co., NC	20 August 1996	2	G.B. Mottesi
Semotilus atromaculatus	Little Mountain Creek	NC 740	Stanly Co., NC	20 August 1996		G.B. Mottesi
Clinostomus funduloides	Mountain Creek	SR 1542	Stanly Co., NC	20 August 1996	-	G.B. Mottesi
Etheostoma olmstedi	Mountain Creek	SR 1542	Stanly Co., NC	20 August 1996	7	G.B. Mottesi
Gambusia holbrooki	Mountain Creek	SR 1542	Stanly Co., NC	20 August 1996	2	G.B. Mottesi
Lepomis auritus	Mountain Creek	SR 1542	Stanly Co., NC	20 August 1996	_	G.B. Mottesi
Lepomis gibbosus	Mountain Creek	SR 1542	Stanly Co., NC	20 August 1996	2	G.B. Mottesi
Lepomis macrochirus	Mountain Creek	SR 1542	Stanly Co., NC	20 August 1996	-	G.B. Mottesi
Nocomis leptocephalus	Mountain Creek	SR 1542	Stanly Co., NC	20 August 1996	7	G.B. Mottesi
Notropis altipinnis	Mountain Creek	SR 1542	Stanly Co., NC	20 August 1996	4	G.B. Mottesi
Notropis chiliticus	Mountain Creek	SR 1542	Stanly Co., NC	20 August 1996	2	G.B. Mottesi
Semotilus atromaculatus	Mountain Creek	SR 1542	Stanly Co., NC	20 August 1996	-	G.B. Mottesi
Clinostomus funduloides	unnamed trib. to Pee Dee R.	Off Bridle Trail, MMSP	Stanly Co., NC	21 August 1996	2	G.B. Mottesi
Etheostoma olmstedi	unnamed trib. to Pee Dee R.	Off Bridle Trail, MMSP	Stanly Co., NC	21 August 1996	<b>∞</b>	G.B. Mottesi
Lepomis auritus	unnamed trib. to Pee Dee R.	Off Bridle Trail, MMSP	Stanly Co., NC	21 August 1996	_	G.B. Mottesi
Lepomis macrochirus	unnamed trib. to Pee Dee R.	Off Bridle Trail, MMSP	Stanly Co., NC	21 August 1996	7	G.B. Mottesi
Moxostoma anisurum	unnamed trib. to Pee Dee R.	Off Bridle Trail, MMSP	Stanly Co., NC	21 August 1996	-	G.B. Mottesi
Nocomis leptocephalus	unnamed trib. to Pee Dee R.	Off Bridle Trail, MMSP	Stanly Co., NC	21 August 1996	4	G.B. Mottesi
Notropis chiliticus	unnamed trib. to Pee Dee R.	Off Bridle Trail, MMSP	Stanly Co., NC	21 August 1996	4	G.B. Mottesi
Semotilus atromaculatus	unnamed trib. to Pee Dee R.	Off Bridle Trail, MMSP	Stanly Co., NC	21 August 1996	11	G.B. Mottesi
Lepomis sp.	unnamed trib. to Mountain Cr.	SR 1730	Stanly Co., NC	21 August 1996	_	G.B. Mottesi
Semotilus atromaculatus	unnamed trib. to Mountain Cr.	SR 1730	Stanly Co., NC	21 August 1996	_	G.B. Mottesi
Lepomis macrochirus	unnamed trib. to Mountain Cr.	SR 1730	Stanly Co., NC	21 August 1996	-	G.B. Mottesi
Lepomis gibbosus	unnamed trib. to Mountain Cr.	SR 1730	Stanly Co., NC	21 August 1996	2	G.B. Mottesi
Lepomis auritus	unnamed trib. to Mountain Cr.	SR 1730	Stanly Co., NC	21 August 1996	_	G.B. Mottesi
Gambusia holbrooki	unnamed trib. to Mountain Cr.	SR 1730	Stanly Co., NC	21 August 1996	3	G.B. Mottesi
Clinostomus funduloides	unnamed trib. to Mountain Cr.	SR 1730	Stanly Co., NC	21 August 1996	3	G.B. Mottesi
Dorosoma cepedianum	unnamed trib. to Mountain Cr.	SR 1730	Stanly Co., NC	21 August 1996	4	G.B. Mottesi
Lepomis auritus	unnamed trib. to Mountain Cr.	SR 1730	Stanly Co., NC	21 August 1996	1	G.B. Mottesi
I amount a monday of imin	0					- W. J. C. C.

Table 2. Fish found in Morrow Mountain State Park and the Mountain Creek Subbasin (cont.)

Identified By	G.B. Mottesi G.B. Mottesi G.B. Mottesi G.B. Mottesi G.B. Mottesi G.B. Mottesi
Number	8 2 3 3 3 8 8 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9
Date	21 August 1996 21 August 1996 21 August 1996 22 August 1996 22 August 1996 22 August 1996
County	Stanly Co., NC Stanly Co., NC Stanly Co., NC Stanly Co., NC Stanly Co., NC Stanly Co., NC
Common Locality	SR 1730 SR 1730 SR 1730 SR 1545 SR 1545 SR 1545 SR 1545
Waterway	unnamed trib. to Mountain Cr. unnamed trib. to Mountain Cr. unnamed trib. to Mountain Cr. Little Mountain Creek Little Mountain Creek Little Mountain Creek Little Mountain Creek
Station No. Scientific Name	Micropterus salmoides Notropis chiliticus Semotilus atromaculatus Semotilus atromaculatus Nocomis leptocephalus Gambusia holbrooki
Station No.	960821.4 960821.4 960821.4 960822.1 960822.1 960822.1





